

**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU  
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

**POWYS**

**PEN COMMON, LLANBEDR**

**Date of Notification:** 1990

**National Grid Reference:** SO 140475

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50, 000 Sheet number: 148  
1:25, 000 Sheet number: SO 14

**Site Area:** 5 ha

**Description:**

This site comprises a small area of common land lying on gently sloping land just to the south of Llanbedr Hill. It supports one of the most extensive areas of botanically-rich, small-sedge flush remaining in Radnor.

Much of the central part of the site consists of dry acidic pasture dominated by sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, with frequent common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta*. This sward has been extensively invaded by bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, which is particularly dense at the northern end of the common. A series of springs at the southern end gives rise to a complex network of flushes dominated by mixtures of star sedge *Carex echinata*, glaucous sedge *C. flacca*, tawny sedge *C. hostiana*, common sedge *C. nigra* and carnation sedge *C. panicea*, with frequent common yellow-sedge *C. demissa*, flea sedge *C. pulicaris*, marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* and bulbous rush *Juncus bulbosus*. There is also a wide range of other species, including sweet vernal-grass, quaking-grass *Briza media*, fen bedstraw *Galium uliginosum*, greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus*, water mint *Mentha aquatica*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, bristle club-rush *Isolepis setacea*, marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris* and the moss *Campylium stellatum*. Wetter runnels within this community support abundant few-flowered spike-rush *Eleocharis quinqueflora*, along with species such as round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, common butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris* and the mosses *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Cratoneuron commutatum* var. *falcatum* and *Philonotis fontana*. A small stream along the northern edge of the common is fringed by further areas of sedge-rich flush. The channel itself supports frequent fool's water-cress *Apium nodiflorum*. Additional habitat diversity is provided by dry base-rich banks which support a sward dominated by sheep's-fescue and common bent, with frequent mouse-ear hawkweed *Hieracium pilosella* and wild thyme *Thymus praecox*. Other characteristic associates here include yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* and tormentil.

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